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INTERNET COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AA405/3J	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 00/ 16917	International filing date (day/month/year) 20/06/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 21/06/1999
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of Invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

PROCESS FOR MAKING A GRANULAR DETERGENT COMPOSITION

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 00/16917

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C11D17/06 C11D11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 816 485 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 7 January 1998 (1998-01-07) page 2, line 40 -page 3, line 2; claims ----	1,7,11
A	US 5 516 448 A (CAPECI SCOTT W ET AL) 14 May 1996 (1996-05-14) claims ----	1-13
A	DE 42 43 704 A (HENKEL KGAA) 30 June 1994 (1994-06-30) claims; examples; table 3 ----- -/-	1,7,11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Grittern, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 00/16917

C(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199303 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class D25, AN 1993-021915 XP002150178 & JP 04 348197 A (LION CORP), 3 December 1992 (1992-12-03) abstract</p> <p>-----</p>	1, 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/16917

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0816485	A	07-01-1998	BR 9710199 A	23-11-1999
			CA 2259535 A	15-01-1998
			JP 11514033 T	30-11-1999
			WO 9801520 A	15-01-1998
<hr/>				
US 5516448	A	14-05-1996	AT 177471 T	15-03-1999
			AU 3505095 A	09-04-1996
			CA 2199370 A	28-03-1996
			DE 69508262 D	15-04-1999
			DE 69508262 T	14-10-1999
			EP 0783565 A	16-07-1997
			JP 10506141 T	16-06-1998
			WO 9609370 A	28-03-1996
<hr/>				
DE 4243704	A	30-06-1994	WO 9414946 A	07-07-1994
			EP 0675947 A	11-10-1995
			JP 8504864 T	28-05-1996
<hr/>				
JP 4348197	A	03-12-1992	NONE	
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 25 JUL 2001

WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

14


Applicant's or agent's file reference AA405/3J		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US00/16917	International filing date (day/month/year) 20/06/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 21/06/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C11D17/06		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 - ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27/12/2000	Date of completion of this report 23.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Giese, H-H Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8488



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/16917

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-21 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-13 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/16917

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	7, 8, 10
	No:	Claims	1-6, 9, 11-13
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	-
	No:	Claims	1-13
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations **see separate sheet**

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**Re Item V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty,
inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and
explanations supporting such statement**

1. Cited documents

The following documents (D) are referred to in this communication:

D1: EP-A-0 816 485

D2: US-A-5 516 448

2. Novelty (Article 33(2) PCT)

With respect to the disclosure in D1 (page 2, lines 40 to page 3, line 2 and the claims) or in D2 (see the claims) claims 1 to 13 are not novel (Article 33(2) PCT). Although the tipp speed of claim 4 are not mentioned in cited prior art documents the tipp speed appears to be merely implicit technical features of the described mixers.

Subject-matter of claim 7 and 10 appear to be novel (article 33(2) PCT; see also point VIII, 1.).

3. Inventive Step (Article 33(3) PCT)

The problem to be solved in present application was to improve solubility, flowability and cleaning performance of a detergent composition (see page 3, §1). The solution proposed by the present application is a process as defined on page 3, lines 16-23.

The same technical problem as defined in the present application appears to be solved by the disclosure in document D1 (see page 2, lines 15-17 and 23-25) or in D2 (see col. 2, lines 43-48). Therefore, present claims do not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

Although dependent claims 7 and 10 of present application appear to be novel over cited prior art documents (see also point VIII, 1.) they comprise the same technical principle than disclosed in prior art. The skilled person would regard it as normal design procedure to select a (weight) ratio, a fluid bed granulator, respectively which is then as a consequence suitable for specific purposes and

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/16917

applications (see the Guidelines IV, 8.8 C1) PCT). Therefore, present claims 7 and 10 do not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4. Industrial Applicability (Article 33(4) PCT)

The claimed invention appears to be industrial applicable in the fields of detergents and therefore present application meets the requirements of Article 33(4) PCT).

Re Item VII Certain defects in the international application

1. As required by Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, it is appropriate to identify documents D1 and D2 and to discuss the relevant background art disclosed therein briefly (see also the Guidelines II, 4.4 PCT).
3. As required by Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT prior art should not merely be disclosed in the introductory part of the description on pages 1 to 3, but the document(s) should be identified in the description of the background art.
4. The statements throughout the description that cited documents are incorporated merely be referred thereto does not permit the extension of the present disclosure to be clearly determined (see the Guidelines II, 4.17 PCT).

Re Item VIII Certain observations on the international application

1. The subject-matters of claim 7 and 10 has been omitted from the description. Their presence in the description is necessary to provide support for the claim as required by Article 6 PCT.
2. The term "about" detracts clarity from all claims (article 6 PCT) because it is to be regarded as rendering the scope of the invention vague especically in combination with its presence throughout the description.

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3. The number of claims does not comply with Article 6 and Rule 6.1 (a)(b) PCT (the Guidelines C-III, 3.3 and 5 PCT), since more than one independent claim of the same category should be avoided.
Present independent claims 1 and 11 relate basically to the process for making a granular detergent composition. Claim 11 exceeds the definition in claim 1 by incorporating subject-matter of claim 3. Thus, claim 11 is merely a combination of claim 1 and claim 3.
4. Claim 7 is vague and unclear because the dimension of the ratio is not defined (eg. weight ratio, volume ratio, etc.)